



OARC Access Consultation Before Your Consultation

Open Access Resource Centre provides guidance in helping children with complex bodies or fine motor challenges use AAC in ways that work for them. Not all children use their finger to point to buttons on the screen. We can make the buttons talk using tools like a stylus, a button or mouse, or even our eyes! We call these “alternative access methods”. To determine what the best access method might be for your child, our team of experts can meet with you and your child to collaborate.

The team from Open Access Resource Centre who provide this consultation include an Occupational Therapist, an Assistive Technology Specialist, and Speech-Language Pathologist. After our meeting, we may leave some equipment or tools with you to practice using. These loans are provided for 10 weeks. The trial is meant to help support a future decision to purchase a communication device and access tools for your child. We encourage you to take videos of your child engaging with the equipment. When we find the right fit, an application will be provided to your child’s Speech-language Pathologist so we can help you find funding for, purchase, and set up the system for your child.

In order to best utilize our time together, we ask that you prepare in the following ways:

1. Complete the provided consultation form with input from the various team members (educational assistant, classroom teacher, family, clinicians, etc)
2. Ensure that all team members have a foundational understanding of augmentative and alternative communication (AAC). If you’re looking for information to provide to team members, see our attached resources list.
3. The child should have or be working towards a way of answering “yes” or “no” using their body. If you’re looking for further information about an accept/reject response, please see the resources list.
4. The team should be familiar with what it means to “model AAC”. At our consultation appointment, we will not be discussing modelling of or customization of AAC software.